

SENATE, NO. 623

AN ACT TO PROVIDE SENIOR CITIZEN HEARING TESTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Chapter 111 of the general laws as most recently appearing in the 2000 Official Edition is hereby amended by inserting after section 67H, the following new section,

Section 67I. Senior Citizen Hearing Screening Tests.

For the purposes of this section, the words "senior citizen" shall mean a person sixty years of age or older who is a resident of the commonwealth.

A hearing screening test shall be performed on all senior citizens not more than once per year, upon request, by a hospital, community health center or licensed audiologist, the cost of which shall be a covered benefit reimbursable by all health insurers, except for supplemental policies which only provide coverage for specific diseases, hospital indemnity, Medicare supplement, or other supplemental policies. In the absence of a third party payer, the charges for the senior citizen hearing screening test shall be borne by the commonwealth.